

NO NEED FOR STATE BANKS

Economists say all state-owned banks, except Sonali, should be privatised

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THE SCHOLAR GYPSY

University colleague writes about late Prof Rezaul Karim Siddiquee

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BARCA SEAL LA LIGA TITLE

Luis Suarez fires hattrick to lead Barcelona to their 24th title

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Monk killed in Bandarban

Found with throat slit at Buddhist temple in remote hilly area

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, back from Naikkhangchhari with JAMIL MAHMUD in Dhaka

He chose to live in seclusion in a remote temple to attain Buddhist wisdom. Most of his time was devoted to religious rites, prayers and meditation.

His family members and locals say it's out of question that he had any enmity with anyone. May all beings be happy -- this was what the monk wanted like any other Bouddha Bhikkhu.

So people in the hilly area could not believe their ears when they heard of the grisly murder of U Damma Oaing Cha Bhikkhu.

The 73-year-old Buddhist monk was found dead, with his throat slit, in his temple in Naikkhangchhari upazila of Bandarban early yesterday.

His temple, Chak Nirvana Bouddha Kyang, is some 250 yards from the nearest village Upor Chakpara -- where his family members live -- under Baishari union in the upazila.

The area is about 20 kilometres from Naikkhangchhari upazila headquarters and home to a community of 300 to

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PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Buddhists paying their respect to slain monk U Damma Oaing Cha Bhikkhu inside his temple, inset, in Naikkhangchhari upazila of Bandarban yesterday.



ANSAR CAMP ATTACK 3 held for quizzing

No trace of looted arms yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The police have detained three people, including two women, for questioning about Friday's arms robbery at the Ansar barracks at Nayapara Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.

Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies have increased their vigilance inside the camp and its adjacent and other areas of Hnila union by the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway.

One of the three, Abdul Amin, 30, an auto-rickshaw driver, was detained during a raid by law enforcers in the adjoining area of the camp, police sources said. He was found injured at his house at the time and so was taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Amin claimed to have witnessed the robbery and that the criminals had attacked him, said district Superintendent of Police Shyamol Kumar Nath. But

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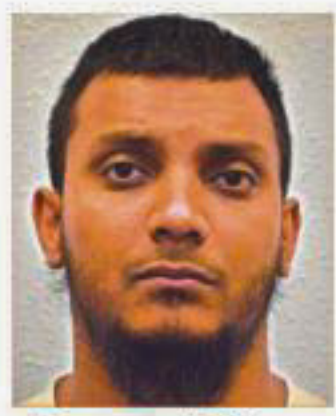
PLOT TO ATTACK US TROOPS Bangladeshi born Briton gets life term

AFP, London

A Bangladeshi-born British man who plotted an Islamic State-inspired attack on US military personnel based in England was on Friday jailed for life and told he would spend at least 12 years behind bars.

Junead Khan, 25, was a committed supporter of the IS group and he also idolised Mohammed Emwazi, the late British militant nicknamed "Jihadi John", who appeared in a string of IS execution videos.

Khan had used his job as a delivery driver for a pharmaceutical firm as cover to scout US Air Force bases in eastern England between May and July 2015, it emerged during his trial.



Junead Khan

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Taller, stronger rice plant

Bangladeshi scientists develop 2 modern, high-yielding varieties that can withstand tidal surge

REAZ AHMAD

Scientists have come up with a solution for southern farmers who have long been deprived of the benefits of high-yield modern rice varieties (MVs) that cannot grow on tidal wetlands.

After 12 years of arduous breeding process, they succeeded in developing two modern varieties suitable for cultivation in the tidal floodplain ecosystem of the southern delta region, with the promise of an additional yield of one million tonnes a year.

The varieties -- proposed as BRRI dhan77 and BRRI dhan78 -- are set to get regulatory approval anytime this month, said Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) Jiban Krishna Biswas.

Against 2.5 to 3 tonnes of rice per hectare, which farmers reap from traditional varieties, the new modern varieties will bring about 4 tonnes of crops a hectare



during the Aman season in July-December, said Helal Uddin Ahmed, chief scientific officer at the research institute.

While farmers elsewhere have already switched to MVs from low-yield traditional varieties, rice growers in over a million hectares of tidal wetlands have had to remain satisfied with homegrown varieties.

So long indigenous varieties have performed better than modern varieties on

tidal floodplains because seedlings of the former are taller than the latter. As the region is at the proximity of the sea and inland estuaries, shorter seedlings often fail to survive the water flowing in and out with high tide and low tide twice a day.

BRRI dhan77 and BRRI dhan78 are bred in a way that their seedlings would be tall in size and would survive the tidal wetland condition, said Helal, a BRRI plant breeder.

When farmers take 30/35-day-old seedlings from seedbeds for planting in the fields "our most productive MVs like BR11 are hardly 35cm tall and fail to withstand tidal water. But the seedlings of the two new breeding lines would be doubly tall [65 to 70cm] and would well withstand the tides," he explained.

The newly developed breeding lines would meet southern farmers' aspiration for higher yields in the Aman season, said scientists at the BRRI.

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Another feather in the cap

Wasfia gets award from Nat Geo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the first Bangladeshi to have climbed the Seven Summits, has brought another international accolade home.

This time, the Washington-based National Geographic Society is honouring her with its Emerging Explorer award for her commitment to empowering women and girls through

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Non-refined steel can never be earthquake resistant !

Majority of construction steel in Bangladesh are made from non-refined steel full of impurities.

Structures made using non-refined steel are highly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquake.

In ordinary steel, impurities are spread in an uncontrolled manner, not visible through the naked eye. When the wave of earthquake force (Cyclic Loading) hits the structure, entire force gets concentrated in the weak point containing impurities. The impact first develops a crack that eventually collapses the structure.

World class AKS is produced after 100% refinement by Bangladesh's first Electric Arc Furnace using TMT technology. Only AKS TMT Bar can ensure maximum protection to your structure.

100% REFINED STEEL



BUET Certified First Ever Earthquake Resistant Steel in Bangladesh

